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## **Edwards Appointed Chief of Staff** ***Commissioner Medows creates new post to serve agency***

**ATLANTA** – Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) Commissioner Dr. Rhonda Medows announced today the appointment of Dr. Carladenise Armbrister Edwards as the new chief of staff for the department.

"We are very fortunate to have Dr. Edwards as our new chief of staff," said Dr. Medows. "Her operational, administrative, state and federal government experience makes her the perfect fit for our administrative team."

As chief of staff, Edwards will act as the principal advisor to the Commissioner on all major policy and management issues and initiatives. In addition to coordinating DCH activities and issues, she also serves as a strategic advisor.

Edwards brings more than 13 years of experience in health administration and policy to the role. Prior to joining DCH, Edwards was the executive director of the South Florida Health Information Initiative, a regional health information organization aimed at improving health care quality, access, and efficiency through technology. Previously, she served as the vice president of Williams, Stern, and Associates, a firm that specializes in health and human services research and evaluation. Also, she was a member of the leadership team in the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Edwards holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and Masters of Science degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She also has a doctorate in medical sociology from the University of Florida. She is married and has two children.